Haverhill Urban District

IN THE

Administrative County of West Suffolk

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1934

"Echo" Office, Haverhill.

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Haverhill Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1934 on the Sanitary Conditions, Health, and Vital Statistics of the Haverhill Urban District.

The Report is an Ordinary Report drawn up in accordance with instructions issued by the Ministry of Health in Circular 1417 dated October 25th, 1934.

The health of the district has been good during the year. There has been no deaths of children under one year of age and no maternal mortality. The incidence of infectious disease has also been slight.

ARTHUR MORGAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of the District 2,530 Acres.

	1931	1932	1933	1934
Estimated Resident Population ..	3,821	3,805	3,789	3,750

Census population, 1921 ... 4,083

1931 ... 3,828

Decrease 255

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1934) according to the Rate Books 1,190

Rateable Value £14,734

Sum represented by a Penny Rate £57 10s.

Rates 15/-

(County Rate : 12/5.3 U.D.C. Rate : 2/5.5. Assessment Committee : 1.2d.)

The principal industry is the manufacture of ready-made clothing, gloves, mats, textile fabrics, etc. There are no industries or occupations calculated to exert a prejudicial effect upon the public health. The town is a centre for the surrounding villages and a market is held weekly.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Live Births:

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	38	22	16
Illegitimate	2	1	1
Grand Total ...	40	23	17

Birth Rate per thousand estimated resident population 10.6

Birth Rate per thousand population (England and Wales) 14.8

Stillbirths:

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	1	1	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Rate per thousand total live and stillbirths 24.4

Deaths:

Total.	Male.	Female.
56	27	29

(a) Crude Death Rate per thousand estimated resident population ... 14.9

(b) Death Rate corrected for age and sex distribution (factor .76) ... 11.3

Death Rate per thousand population (England and Wales) 11.8

Deaths from puerperal causes:—

(a) Puerperal Sepsis Nil

(b) Other puerperal causes Nil

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age Nil

Death Rate of infants under one year of age Nil

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) Nil

The 56 deaths took place at the following age periods:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—
1 and under 2 ...	—	—	—
2 „ 5 ...	—	—	—
5 „ 15 ...	—	—	—
15 „ 25 ...	—	1	1
25 „ 35 ...	2	1	3
35 „ 45 ...	—	—	—
45 „ 55 ...	—	2	2
55 „ 65 ...	9	3	12
65 „ 75 ...	10	10	20
75 and upwards ...	6	12	18
Totals	27	29	56

Table Classifying Deaths according to Cause and Sex.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers			
Measles			
Scarlet Fever			
Whooping Cough			
Diphtheria			
Influenza		1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica			
Cerebro Spinal Fever			
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System			
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1		1
Syphilis			
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis			
Cancer, Malignant Disease	5	11	16
Diabetes			
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	1	1	2
Heart Disease	6	5	11
Aneurysm			
Other Circulatory Diseases	9	3	12
Bronchitis			
Pneumonia, all forms			
Other Respiratory Diseases			
Peptic Ulcer	1		1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)			
Appendicitis			
Cirrhosis of Liver			
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.			
Other Digestive Diseases	2		2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis		4	4
Puerperal Sepsis			
Other Puerperal Causes			
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.			
Senility		1	1
Suicide	1		1
Other Violence	1	1	2
Other Defined Diseases...		2	2
Causes Ill-Defined or Unknown			
Special Causes (included under "Other Defined Diseases" above)			
Small Pox			
Poliomyelitis			
Polioencephalitis			
Totals	27	29	56

Deaths from certain special diseases during the last five years as compared with the present year :—

	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
Cancer	6	6	6	9	12	11	16
Tuberculosis (all forms)	4	3	2	1	3		1
Influenza...	1			1		1	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	2	2	2	1	1	
Measles							
Whooping Cough							
Scarlet Fever							
Diphtheria		2					

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority :

(*a*) A whole time Medical Officer of Health, who also acts for other districts in West Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

(*b*) Mr. J. H. Clarke, of Haverhill, is Housing Officer, Surveyor, and Sanitary Inspector. The appointment is a whole time one. Mr. Clarke holds the Testamur of Municipal and County Engineers and the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

There are no alterations to record so far as public health services, including hospital accommodation for infectious disease, are concerned.

A small isolation hospital is maintained by the District Council. Ten beds are available on the basis of 144 square feet of floor space, 13 feet of wall space and 2,000 cubic feet of air space. The accommodation, however, is such that only cases of one disease can be admitted. No resident staff is kept and the local practitioners attend their own cases at the hospital. In the event of the need arising it is possible to send cases to the Newmarket Rural District Hospital at Exning, near Newmarket, the charge being £2 12s. 6d. per week. The question of Isolation Hospital accommodation in the County of West Suffolk has received consideration during the year and conferences have been held between representatives of the District Councils and the County Council. While no definite decision on the subject appears to have been reached, it has been suggested that the provision of a central hospital for the County might be the best way out of the difficulty.

General Hospitals :

There is no general hospital in the district and cases requiring hospital treatment are sent either to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, or to the West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmund's. The number of admissions to the former institution during the year was 57 as against 56 for 1933, 60 in 1932, 42 in 1931 and 45 in 1930.

Ambulance Facilities :

Cases of infectious disease are removed to the local hospital by horse ambulance and by motor ambulance if being sent to a hospital outside the area. A motor ambulance has also been provided by public subscription for the removal of cases of ordinary illness and accident. The ambulance made 38 journeys during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Council's Waterworks are situated at Burton End. They consist of a well, two headings, two boreholes, and pumping plant in duplicate. The covered reservoir has a capacity of 150,000 gallons, providing two days' supply.

The maximum and minimum rest levels of the water in the well were the lowest ever recorded. The supply, however, proved equal to the demand, though during the months of November and December there was only a slight margin in excess of the requirements. In consequence of this it was decided to utilize the new borehole sunk in 1929 in order to raise water from a lower level. For this purpose a reciprocating pump has been installed, capable of raising 9,000 gallons per hour from a depth of 175 feet, which is 75 feet deeper than the present pumping plant suctions. The cost of the pump and plant was approximately £550 and the pump house £280.

During the year three extensions of the water main were made, totalling about half-a-mile, bringing more houses within reach of the mains, all of which took the supply.

Samples of water taken from two wells supplying eleven houses were found to be unsatisfactory; the wells were closed and notices served on the owners to provide supplies from the public main. The notices were complied with.

The charges for water are :—

1/- in the £ on rateable value with minimum charge on £6.

1/- per 1,000 gallons by meter with reductions to 9d. per 1,000 for large consumers.

That the water is of good quality is evidenced by the following report on a sample sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratory on the 15th of June, 1934. The only disadvantage is the excessive hardness. The Council have from time to time considered the advisability of installing a water softener, but the matter is still in abeyance.

Chemical results in parts per 100,000.

Appearance	Clear and bright.
Colour	Normal, Odour Nil.
Reaction pH	Neutral 7.0, Free Carbonic Acid 4.0
Electric Conductivity at 20° C ...	900.
Total Solids, 180° C	60.0.
Chlorine in Chlorides	4.9.
Nitrogen in Nitrates	Nil. Nitrites Absent.
Hardness : Permanent	14.5.
Temporary	27.5.
Total	42.0.
Metals...	Iron—minute trace, 0.003.
Free Ammonia	0.0032
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0008.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F	0.0250.

Report:—This is a bright water of normal colour and free from suspended matter. It is neutral in reaction but contains a distinct trace of Free Carbon Dioxide. The water contains no excess of salinity but is very hard in character. Except for a minute and negligible trace of Iron, the water is free from metals. In addition it is of a high standard of organic purity and the chemical analysis shows no evidence of pollution. It is suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Number of dwelling-houses connected to the mains:

(a) Within U.D.C area	1160
(b) Outside area	20
Length of mains	4½ miles
Number of houses connected to the mains during the year ...	45
Number of houses not connected to the mains:	
(a) Within reach	23
(b) Not within reach	27

The average daily consumption of water for 1934 was 75,500 gallons, and the total quantity of water pumped was 27,556,500 gallons. The average daily consumption per head of population is 19 gallons.

Variations in height of water in the well:—

1927	Maximum level, May ...	210 60ft.	above ordnance Datum	
	Minimum level, Sept. ...	203.60ft.	,,	,,
1928	Maximum level, March ...	213 40ft.	,,	,,
	Minimum level, October ...	201.70ft.	,,	,,
1929	Maximum level, March ...	208 20ft.	,,	,,
	Minimum level, October ...	199 75ft.	,,	,,
1930	Maximum level, April ...	210.10ft.	,,	,,
	Minimum level, October ...	204.30ft.	,,	,,
1931	Maximum level, March ...	212 22ft.	,,	,,
	Minimum level, December ...	206.00ft.	,,	,,
1932	Maximum level, June ...	208,00ft.	,,	,,
	Minimum level, October ...	203.55ft.	,,	,,
1933	Maximum level, April ...	208 80ft.	,,	,,
	Minimum level, December ...	200 75ft.	,,	,,
1934	Maximum level, April ...	201.00ft.	,,	,,
	Minimum level, December ...	197.75ft.	,,	,,

Rainfall as registered by the rain guage at the Waterworks:—

Year	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	
	1.20	0.19	2.09	1.45	0.53	1.42	
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	1.73	1.75	1.52	1.20	1.79	3.09	17.96

Snow or rain was recorded on 144 days. The greatest rainfall was for the 24 hours ending 9 a.m. on July 14th, when 0.77 inches were registered. The total rainfall for the previous year was 16.79 inches.

The rainfall for each of the past three years has been below the average.

Open-Air Swimming Bath:

During the year a report on the cost of the provision of a filtration and chlorination plant was again considered; it was decided not to proceed at present.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Sewage Disposal Works are on the East side of the Town. The Sewage gravitates to the works through an 18 inch diameter outfall sewer. A section of this, which was in bad condition, was relaid during the year. Two extensions of branch sewers were also made.

The Sewage Disposal Works consist of screening, detritus, storm water, two collecting and two settling tanks, four contact filters and one percolating filter, with final treatment on 5 acres of land, all underdrained, and about 2 acres is terraced. Part of the land is cropped with root crops.

The Pumping Plant consists of crude oil engines and centrifugal pumps in duplicate. During the year one new crude oil engine was fixed.

The Sewage is a strong sewage and a satisfactory effluent is obtained.

	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
No. of dwelling-houses connected with sewers	1081	1085	1085	1107	1112	1112	1118	1130
,, dwelling-houses not connected with sewers	65	65	63	63	63	63	61	60
,, dwelling-houses with flushing cisterns ...	319	332	343	374	399	428	474	540
,, dwelling-houses with waste water flushing	754	753	741	733	713	686	648	590
,, conversions from waste water flushing to flushing cisterns	52	7	9	6	11	23	38	46
,, privies	14	14	12	12	12	12	12	12
,, pail closets... ...	36	36	36	36	36	36	34	33
,, cesspools	—	—	—	2	2	4	4	4

HOUSE SCAVENGING AND DISPOSAL.

Collections are made weekly from about 1,150 premises. Collection is made in a covered van. The whole of the refuse from one section of the town, representing about 65 per cent. of the whole, is tipped into a disused brickyard and covered. The remaining 35 per cent. is disposed of in a similar manner during the winter months in another disused brickyard, but during the summer months this refuse is taken to the Sewage Works, sorted and disposed of.

The provision of sanitary dustbins has not been made compulsory.

The annual cost of collection and disposal is £170.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number of Inspections				2094
Dwelling-houses—Overcrowding		5		
	Structural defects	40		
	Other causes	83		128
Complaints				12
Drainage				102
Water Supply				28
Schools				8
Dairies and cowsheds				27
Slaughterhouses				130
Butchers' shops				38
Bakehouses				40
Fried fish shops				9
Ice cream premises				12
General inspections				327
Re-inspections				389
Sundry visits				844
Nuisances or defects found		78		
,, ,, remedied		97	(including 20 outstanding)	
Number of notices served during the year				77
(a) Informal written	46	Complied with		45
(b) Statutory	31	,, ,,		30

Disinfections:

Number of premises disinfected after infectious disease	7
,, ,, ,, for other reasons	2
Bedding steam disinfected	8

Special classes of Premises and Occupations subject to control by the Local Authority:

There are no offensive trades, houses let in lodgings, underground sleeping rooms, tents, sheds, etc., in the district.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928:—There are no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Schools:

There are two schools in the district:—(1) A Secondary School with 93 pupils (49 boys, 44 girls). (2) A Council School with 475 pupils (202 boys, 273 girls). Water supply and sanitation are satisfactory and there are no alterations to report.

HOUSING.

The first year's programme of the Slum Clearance under the Housing Act, 1930, has been carried out. This comprised three Clearance Areas, including 10 houses and 3 individual unfit Houses, and necessitated the total displacement of 51 persons. One owner lodged an objection with the Ministry of Health and a Public Inquiry was held, but the owner withdrew his objection at the last moment and Confirming Orders were made in all cases. Eight A3 type houses were erected to house the displaced persons and these have been let at inclusive rents of 4s. 7d. per week. The unfit houses have all been demolished.

In addition application has been made to the Ministry of Health for confirmation for four further Clearance Areas, being the second year's programme for 1935.

Six houses A3 type were also erected by Contract during the year under the 1925 Act.

The total number of houses erected at the end 1934, under the various Housing Acts, is 105, viz :—

10 parlour-type Houses under the 1919 Act, let at 8s. 6d. per week exclusive of rates.
81 non-parlour type 3 bedroom houses under the 1924 Act, let at inclusive rents from 6s. 4d. to 9s. 1d. per week.
6 non-parlour type 3 bedroom houses under the 1925 Act, let at inclusive rents of 7s. 10d. to 9s. 4d. per week.
8 non-parlour type 3 bedroom houses under the 1930 Act, let at inclusive rents of 4s. 7d. per week.

I. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :—

(1)	(*a*)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	211
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	413
(2)	(*a*)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	43
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	125
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	56

II. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	27

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A. *Proceedings under Section 17, 18, and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930* :

(1)		Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2)		Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(*a*)	By owner (outstanding from previous year)	8
	(*b*)	By Local Authority in default of owners... ...	—

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts:*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 30

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(*a*) By owners 30
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners... ... —

C. *Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930:*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 3

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders 3

D. *Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930:*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit —

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply:

Number of cowkeepers and purveyors of milk on the Register:—

Wholesale Purveyors	None
Retail Purveyors	5
Retail Purveyors who are not cowkeepers ...	1
Total ...	6

No action has been called for under the Milk and Dairies Order of 1926. One licence has been granted by the Council for the sale of milk under The Milk Special Designations Order 1923, as pasteurised.

A reasonable standard of cleanliness is observed and the premises are all suitable for the purposes to which they are put. Three samples were taken for Bacteriological examination on behalf of the West Suffolk County Council.

Meat Supply:

Number of Registered Slaughterhouses ...	2
Number of Licensed Slaughterhouses ...	4
Total ...	6

The water supply, drainage and arrangements for the removal of refuse are satisfactory. Thirty-four notices were received relating to slaughtering taking place at other than the registered times. Three carcases and twenty-two parts of carcases of pigs have been condemned as unfit for human food.

There are eight meat shops. Two sell frozen or chilled meat, one frozen and fresh meat, and five fresh meat only. They are kept in a cleanly condition and reasonable precautions are taken for the protection of meat from contamination. All have glass windows. One shop opened during the year was closed as the premises were unsuitable.

Bakehouses :

There are five bakehouses in the district. The premises are all suitable for the trade, although one is underground. Water supply and drainage are satisfactory. The requirements of Section 99 of the Factories and Workshops Act relating to limewashing have been complied with.

Premises where Ice Cream is Manufactured :

Hamlet Road	1
Queen Street	1
Withersfield Road	2
Down's Place	1
High Street	1
Total ...	6

Fried Fish Shops :

Queen Street	2
High Street	1
Total ...	3

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There is little to comment on under this heading as the district has been comparatively free from cases of infectious disease. The only cases to be notified being eight of scarlet fever, four of erysipelas, and two of puerperal pyrexia. All the cases of scarlet fever were of a mild type and were admitted to the Haverhill Isolation Hospital.

Disinfection :

The Thresh steam disinfector at the Isolation Hospital is available for the disinfection of infected bedding and clothing. Infected premises are disinfected by the formalin spray or by fumigation. There are, however, no special facilities for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings.

Bacteriological Examinations :

Specimens for examination are usually sent to Dr. W. H. Harvey at the Bacteriological Laboratory, Green Street, Cambridge.

Diphtheria Antitoxin :

Antitoxin is obtained by practitioners when required and paid for, in suitable cases, by the District Council.

Public Health (Smallpox) Regulations, 1917 :

No primary or re-vaccinations have been performed by your Medical Officer of Health during the year under review.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases :

There has been no particular incidence of these diseases that calls for comment.

Notifications were received from the schools relating to 22 children excluded on account of illness or infection in the house. This is the lowest number I have received.

Notifiable Diseases During the Year, Analysis under Age Groups.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	At Ages—Years.												Removed to Hospital.	Deaths.
		—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 —		
Scarlet Fever	8					1	3	3	1					8	—
Erysipelas	4											3	1	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	2									2				—	—
Totals	14	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	1	2	—	3	1	8	

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1924.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
10								
15								
20								
25								
35								
45		1						
55								
65 and upwards							1	
Totals ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from tuberculosis and employed in the milk trade), or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number of Factories, 15—Builders 1, Gasworks 1, Laundry 1, Printing Works 1, Foundries 2, Millers 3, Baker 1, Ropeworks 1, Textile 2, Saw Mills 1, Motor Engineers 1.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year, 35—Builders 2, Bootmakers 5, Basket Makers 1, Bakers 5, Bottling Stores 1, Cycle Repairers 3, Dressmakers 2, Milliners 2, Saddlers 2, Silkweavers 2, Shoeing Smiths 2, Stonemasons 2, Tailors 4, Motor Engineers 2.

	Inspections.	Notices.
Workshops and Workplaces	109	—
Factories	42	—
		—
Total ...	151	—

Outworkers Lists :

Received from employers ... 4

Outworkers, actual number ... 95

Infected premises—Nil.

Nature of outwork—Wearing apparel.

ARTHUR MORGAN, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.